

The Director

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

January 19, 1977

To My Fellow Employees:

It's time to go now, and yet it seems as if I have just begun.

First, I want to say Thank You to all. I have never been associated with any institution that gives its leadership more cooperation and more support. I wish I could thank each of you personally.

As I leave the Agency and the Intelligence Community there are a few personal observations I would like to make.

First, I believe it is essential that the American people give this Agency its full and unqualified support. The world we live in demands no less. The support for the Agency was shaken during the height of the public hearings in 1975. It was shaken, not only because of a handful of abuses that did take place and which indeed had been remedied before the hearings took place; but also it was shaken even more by the endless stream of allegations which were untrue but which were given great attention.

This is changing now, and it is changing for the better. We are still slugged at times with unfair criticism, but the sensationalism is giving way now to legitimate inquiry; the adversary relationship with Congress has given way to thorough and constructive oversight; the frantic search for reorganization and dismantlement has given way to a legitimate search for ways to improve things.

It is essential that CIA continue to work with the Congress, with the rest of the Executive Branch, and to some degree with the public, to demonstrate that CIA the Reality is very different from CIA the Myth. We are cooperating fully with all concerned; and this is bound to result in the Truth. We honor the Truth; we do not fear it.

DCI

-2-

Secondly, we should continue to strive for fair and better legislation to protect sources and methods of obtaining intelligence. We should do all we possibly can to guard against unauthorized leaks, and I strongly urge that we have a reawakening of the need for present and past employees to honor their security commitments. No foreign intelligence organization can be run without careful adherence to security, and we should be ever mindful of the fact that security is everyone's job.

Thirdly, I am pleased with the way the President's Executive Order has been faithfully implemented. All components have cooperated fully. As a result we are operating within the guidelines--guidelines designed to safeguard the rights of private citizens. To deserve the confidence of the American people, we must continue to operate, as we are now, within the law, responsive to Congressional and Executive oversight. I congratulate all for working to make the Executive Order effective.

Lastly, a word about the Dedication here. I have been privileged to serve in many fascinating assignments in public and private life, but nowhere else have I ever encountered the same degree of unselfish dedication to country as I have encountered here at CIA. I thank each and every one of you for the cooperation you have given me over the past year. I know you will give our new Director the same support you have given me.

I am leaving CIA now, but I take with me many happy memories. Even the tough, unsolved problems don't seem so awesome; for they are overshadowed by our successes and by the fact that we do provide the best foreign intelligence in the world. I am leaving, but I am not forgetting. I hope I can find some ways in the years ahead to make the American people understand more fully the greatness that is CIA.

Sincerely,


George Bush

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| SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM | | | |
| UNCLASSIFIED | | CONFIDENTIAL | |
| | | SECRET | |
| ROUTING SLIP | | Executive Registry | |
| | | 77-052/4 | |
| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | DATE | INITIALS |
| 1 | DCI | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |

Remarks:

The attached note, which you have reviewed in draft, is forwarded for your signature.

I shall forward it to the Community with a covering note suggesting that wide rather than narrow dissemination would be most appreciated.

DCI

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER | |
| FROM NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | DATE |
| Walter Elder, Exec Sec, NFIB | 13 Jan. |
| UNCLASSIFIED | CONFIDENTIAL |
| | SECRET |

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

77-0524

13 JAN 1977

TO MY ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY:

As my all too brief tenure as Director of Central Intelligence draws to a close, I want to thank each of you for the cooperation and support you have given me.

During the course of the past year I have come to realize that indeed the United States is blessed with the finest intelligence in the world. The dedication inherent in an assignment in the Intelligence Community is without equal. I have served in many fascinating assignments in public as well as private life, but nowhere have I encountered the degree of commitment which the Intelligence Community enjoys.

I wish I could have accomplished more in obtaining legislation to protect intelligence sources and methods. I worry about leaks from employees of the Community, past and present, and this nation needs a reawakening to honor the spirit as well as the code of our secrecy agreements. No foreign intelligence institution can be run without the strictest adherence to security.

I am pleased with the response the Community has given in implementing faithfully the President's Executive Order. All components have cooperated fully and I was particularly gratified to see for the first time a single consolidated budget prepared and submitted to the President on our National Foreign Intelligence Program. Moreover, the faithful observance of the guidelines of the Executive Order has gone a long way in restoring the confidence of the American people in our Intelligence Community. I congratulate all for making it work.

As I now leave the position of the DCI, I wish to express my gratitude for the support you have given me in carrying on our foreign intelligence mission. I have great faith in you; American intelligence is in good hands.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush

77-00571

*Succession
DCT
Nomination*

Dan:

Some time ago you mentioned to me a letter
Here is one I have drafted to CIA employees
It is not, I am sure responsive to what you
had in mind for vthe community....
Please look this over and then let's chat to
see what if anything is reuired for Community.
The average DIA employee does not look
to me as head of his organization- CIA
people do- hence the dilemma.

GB 1-5-77

January 19, 1976⁷

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It is essential that CIA continue to work with the Congress,
with the rest of the Executive Branch, and to some degree with
the public, to demonstrate that CIA the Reality is very different
than CIA the Myth. We are cooperating fully with all concerned;
and this is bound to result in the Truth. We honor the Truth;
we do not fear it.

(EXECUTIVE)

DCT

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

January 19, 1976⁷

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This is changing now, and it is changing for the better. We are still sluggish at times with unfair criticism, but the sensationalism is giving way now to legitimate inquiry; the adversary relationship with Congress has given way to thorough and constructive oversight; the frantic search for reorganization and dismantlement has given way to a legitimate search for ways to improve things.

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

DDCI

77-0052/1

Hank:

The Director is considering eventual release of the attached message to employees, and I know he would welcome any comment you may wish to make.

STAT

BCEvans

January 19, 1977

I have just

have never been
leadership more
thank each of you

Date 5 January 1977

Community there
shake.

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Executive Registry

76-0052

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

5 JAN 1977

For: Jack Blake:

Please look this over. I would welcome any frank personal observations.... I would like the CIA employee to get this around Jan.19-20....

GB



Washington, D.C. 20505

January 19, 1976⁷

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-2-

Secondly, I am concerned about Security. Our security procedures are good. Our laws, however, are weak. I have not accomplished what I wanted to accomplish in the area of getting fair legislation to protect sources and methods of intelligence. I continue to worry about leaks from our Intelligence Community employees, past and present, and I strongly urge that we have a reawakening of the need to honor our security agreements. No foreign intelligence can be run without careful adherence to security. Our Office of Security at CIA is first class, but it cannot do the job alone.

Thirdly, I am pleased with the way the President's Executive Order has been faithfully implemented. All components have cooperated fully. As a result we are operating within the guidelines--guidelines designed to safeguard the rights of private citizens. To get the confidence from the American people discussed above we must continue to operate, as we are now, within the law, responsive to Congressional and Executive oversight. I congratulate all for working to make the Executive Order work.

Lastly, a word about the Dedication here. I have been privileged to serve in many fascinating assignments in public and private life, but nowhere else have I ever encountered the same degree of unselfish dedication to country as I have encountered here at CIA. I thank each and everyone of you for the cooperation you have given me over the past year. I know you will give our new Director the same support you have given me.

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